

COMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 6 July 2006. It was the 214th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Ch	CSM Charles E. Frye Co-Ch
COL James E. Hyers	CSM William Jolley
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	SGM Samuel V. MacMaster
LTC Clarence R. Collins	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Assoc. Sec
CDR James E. Cobb	1SG Jackie Ray
	1SG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL William E. Crouch	CSM James W. Harris
COL Stanley S. Heath	SFC Joseph N. Barnes
LTC James E. Mellish	

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL William S. Larese, Garrison CDR
COL Michael Kaminski, LAHC CDR
Mr. George Steuber, Dep Garrison CDR
Ms. Deborah L. Seimer, AG
Ms. Diane Snodgrass, AAFES Manager
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Ms. Lin Rogers, Commissary
Ms. Lori Yerdon, PAO

GUESTS

SFC (Ret) Bennett J. Jergenson, Jr.

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1135 and welcomed the new Lyster Army Clinic Commander, COL Kaminski.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

4. Old Business – At the conclusion of the regular business meeting, the advisors were excused and the Council voted in favor of recommending SFC(R) Bernett J. Jergenson, Jr. to be a member of the Council.

5. Committee Reports

a. Public Affairs – SGM MacMaster gave each member a copy of the Post Calendar and the following were highlighted: Soldier Show, 14 –15 July; Best Bar-B-Que, 28 –29 July; and the AUSA Breakfast Meeting in Ozark, 17 August. Mr. Laster reported the Megabucks Karaoke Finals were moved to 21 July.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported the Senate passed the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill which included the amendments related to full concurrent receipt for those deemed unemployable by the VA; the Guard/Reserve retirement age would be reduced by 3 months for each 90 days mobilized since 11 SEP 01; 30-year paid-up SBP would be implemented 1 October 2006; and end the deduction of VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from SBP when the member's death was caused by service. None of these amendments were in the House version so they will be debated in committee. The flag amendment was defeated by one vote. The House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees approved a 2007 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for disabled veterans and their survivors. This is not automatic and must be approved each year. COLA for this year should be in the 4% range. The Senate Vets Committee approved a bill for funding VA hospitals and clinics that would authorize a variety of changes, from accelerated payment of GI Bill benefits to veterans in certain fields (e.g., construction, hospitality, energy and transportation) to allowing veterans to hire lawyers to represent them in VA claims proceedings. The VA laptop computer that was stolen has been recovered and is being checked by the FBI to see if any of the information was compromised. Be aware of a so-called "phishing" scams that targets veterans concerned that their VA data was stolen. It asks for personal information (credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number or other sensitive information so the caller can "check whether the veterans data has been compromised". Some of these come from abuse@vba.va.gov. If you receive suspicious email, DO NOT Open it, but delete it immediately.

c. Health Care – LTC Collins provided the following on COL Kaminski: he is a board certified optometrist, is coming from the Surgeon General's Office where he was an assistant to the Surgeon General and is also an Airborne Ranger.

d. Volunteer Program – No Report.

e. Consolidated Club System – LTC Collins reported that May was not a very good month for the Aviators' Landing with a small loss. Bingo is holding up and the new machines are paying for themselves. The Prime Rib night is not going well due to lack of diners. COL Block stated the new chef has made a big improvement in the quality of the prime rib so hopefully the customers that left will return.

f. Commissary – Ms. Rogers handed out a “Hurricane Preparation Checklist.” She recommended a trash container with wheels to store these supplies in order for them to be mobile. The commissary stocks manual can openers, butane lighters, and first aid kits.

g. PX – Ms. Snodgrass distributed AAFES advertising handouts. The Four Seasons has a hurricane preparation center set up. On 15 July there will a furniture auction on discontinued items, bids will start at 75% off. The PX anniversary is scheduled for 26 July celebrating 111 years in business. There will be many gifts and special items given away including 111 gallons of gasoline. Back to school items are being stocked

h. Golf Course – Mr. Laster stated the irrigation system is working well and the cart path for the Red Course should be completed this week. The golf course is making money.

i. Equestrian Center – Mr. Laster reported the center is making money and the horse shows have been going well.

j. Outdoor Recreation – 1SG Ray reported the RV Park renovation is completed and open for business. LTC Zaharis is the new president of Outdoor Recreation Council. Hunting season is coming up so a lot of time will be spent discussing hunting areas.

k. Bowling Alley – Mr. Laster reported the bowling alley is making money and 20 teams have intramural entries this summer.

l. RAD – Mr. Moore explained the schedule of events at the RAD for the new members and advisors. It was recommended to monitor the health fair after lunch with possibly closing at 1300 rather than 1400 due to lack of business.

6. Advisors Comments –

a. Mr. Laster stated there are 100 Bar B Que teams signed for the Backyard Bar-B-Que on 28 – 29 July along with arts and crafts, music and fun and games for the kids. Volunteer for judges of the Bar B Que should call 598 2727. There will also be a motorcycle poker run, a car show, a fun run, etc. There are 30 new spaces completed in the RV Park with concrete pads, water, and electrical hookups. There is a new dump station for disposing of sewage. The fee is \$15 per night or \$75 per week with a two week limit for staying on the new pads. A one night deposit is required when reserving a space.

b. Ms. Seimer stated the ID Card section was operating normally again for the issuance of ID cards.

c. COL Larese stated the Freedom Fest was a success and they had contracted the fireworks company to come back next year. The gate count was 21,128 which did not include people living on post. On 1 July a “hands-free” cellular phones use policy was

instituted which includes all DOD installations. There is a lot of equipment by the stables and the golf course which has been pre-positioned at Ft. Rucker for hurricanes. Over 600 pieces of guard and reserve equipment will be here. Ft. Rucker was named a "station of choice" in the southeast for equipment going to and returning from combat. This equipment will be repaired and maintained here.

7. New Business – None

8. General Comments –

b. CSM Frye asked what programs were aimed at the E-4 and below, living in the barracks, to keep them on post. Numerous activities and programs were reported.

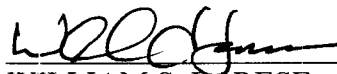
c. COL Bunting reported two schools in the wiregrass were selected as "Distance Learning Schools", one is in Troy and one in Ozark. He also asked for input for the Retiree Bulletin to be forwarded to him ASAP.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1240. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators' Landing on 3 August 2006 at 1130.

Approved via email
BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Cc-Chairman

Approved via email
CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email
LLOYD M. ROGERS
SGM, Retired
Association Secretary


WILLIAM S. LARESE
COL, Aviation
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